



IDHS Citizenship Policy – All children eligible regardless of immigration status

The Illinois Department of Human Services has released Child Care Assistance Program Policy Update – 01.01.03 – Citizenship. Under this policy, all children are eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. Below is an explanation of how the new Verification of Citizenship Status of Children form should be filled out, depending on whether (1) the child is a U.S. Citizen, (2) the child has an alien registration number, or (3) the child is not a U.S. citizen and does not have an alien registration number.

In order to maximize federal funding, but not to determine eligibility, a Verification of Citizenship Status of Children form should be filled out for each case.

- (1) If the child is a U.S. citizen, the applicant should check the “Yes” box and write in the city and state where the child was born.
- (2) If the child has an Alien Registration Number, the parent should write in this number and submit one of the listed forms of documentation of this number.
- (3) If the child is not a U.S. citizen and does not have an Alien Registration Number, the parent should simply check “No” on the form.

Eligibility will not be denied based on a child’s citizenship or immigration status. According to IDHS, the applicant should fill out this form but processing of the child care application should not be held up if the form is not completed.

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